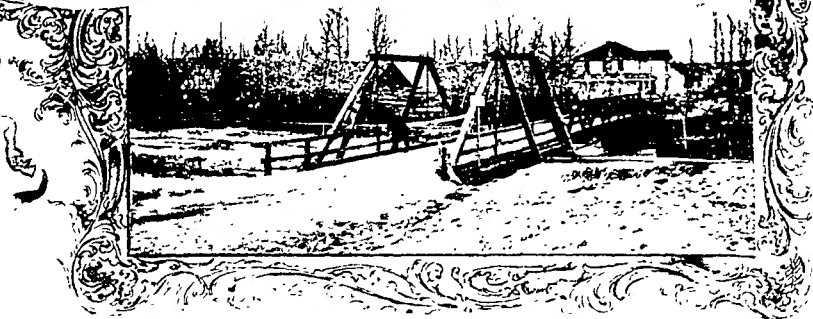


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Souvenir of  
PINCHER CREEK,  
ALBERTA,  
N.W.T.







Souvenir of

# PINCHER CREEK, ALBERTA.

A Western Town and its People.



THE-ALBERTYPE CO.,  
BROOKLYN, N. Y.

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Part 1 of 1  
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# THE STORY OF PINCHER CREEK.

## A WESTERN TOWN AND ITS PEOPLE.

Though little was known of Southern Alberta before the advent of the C. P. R., its fame has now spread to remote lands. Its physical resources and the splendid opportunities it offers to capitalists, to practical farmers and ranchmen, to tourists, sportsmen and invalids, is promoting a stream of immigration that will not cease until its fertile lands are as thickly populated as any portion of Canada.

Undoubtedly the choicest section of this favored land is the belt known as "the foothill country," which lies like a sheltered lagoon between the reefs of the Porcupine Hills and the Easton Ridge which marks the confines of the prairie—and is shored by the mighty bases of the Rockies. Of this beautiful valley Pincher Creek is geographically and commercially the Capital.

Some thirty years ago, a party of prospectors, in crossing the stream upon whose banks the town is now situated, dropped a pair of farriers' pincers into the water. Failing to recover the pincers at the time, they returned next day and were successful. Then and there they christened the stream "Pincers Creek," in the arbitrary manner of early discoverers. The more euphonious name of "Pincher Creek" was afterward adopted and as such the stream and town are still known. The Indian name of "Spitzee," which signifies "Highwood Creek" would, perhaps, have been the better choice as prettier and more descriptive. Pincher Creek lies in the first valley of the disturbed belt, as pleasant a situation as is to be found in the whole Territory. Its altitude is 3,750 feet above sea level. Its exact geographical position is N. Lat. 49, Long. 114 W., is a less important fact to it and the public, than the proximity of the Crows Nest Branch of the C. P. R., two miles north of the village. A spur connecting it with the station, is shortly to be built and, in a year or so, it will have direct railway service from another road tapping it from the south. During the year 1905 a system of water-works and electric light is to be installed and a flour mill established. As to climate it is peculiarly blessed. The Chinook, the beneficent genius of this rich-soiled land of sunshine, is especially kind to Pincher Creek. The meteorological report of the past ten years, lately issued from Ottawa, credits Pincher Creek with a mean temperature for the four winter months of 22.5 degrees (ten degrees higher than any other

town in the Territories) and for the other eight months of the year with 58.8, the lowest on the list, with the one exception of Calgary which ties the record. These figures are significant and prove beyond question that it possesses the most equable climate not only in the Territories, but of all Canada between the Rockies and the Atlantic coast.

It is but a day's ride south from Pincher Creek to "The Great Divide" in Montana, the greatest water shed of the continent, where a mighty system of rivers emptying into the Gulf of Mexico, the Arctic and the Pacific Oceans have their source. From the bench above the village, the view of the main range of the Rockies is indescribably grand. It is not so much the number and the size of the mountains seen from here that impresses one as their amazing beauty and their infinite variety. Every era and style of architecture, sublimely magnified and enobled by nature's hand, are here illustrated. Pyramid and castle, cathedral, mosque and tower, on a scale of magnificence that shames the pigmy works of man and makes him feel like a mouse in a cathedral, confront the beholder's eye. Forty miles south in Montana, Chief Mt. at the head of the gigantic tribe, stands aloof in stern and savage isolation. To the north-west tower Mt. Cleveland and Cathedral Mt., next in order of pre-eminence with Sofa Mt. on the east, its sombre base laved by the blue waters of the Waterton Lakes, claimed by many travellers to be the loveliest mountain waters of the world. Rising tier on tier, the eye follows the range, until it is capped by the loftiest mountain of all, Victoria Peak, whose shining crown reaches an altitude of 9,860 ft. Adjoining the peak and only 18 miles west of the village is Castle Mt. Upon its lofty summit is perched in marvellous semblance a feudal castle of nature's design, surmounting a precipice of 2,000 feet. Just here the range takes the form of a crescent or amphitheatre with McAlpine Peak at the southern point, and Turtle Mt. (world-famous since the Frank disaster) at the north-west point of the bow.

The real gate of the Crow's Nest pass lies just where the bases of Turtle and Goat Mts. touch each other. Before construction, the gap was closed by the Middle Fork of the Old Man's river and a single gate, and the cattle were thus kept from straying up the pass.

No country in the world is more richly and picturesquely watered than Southern Alberta. In the spring and early summer, thousands of miniature little lakes which one writer says look as if "the earth had opened its eyes to twinkle up at the sky," dot the prairie. The Kootenay (or more properly, the Waterton) and the Old Man's rivers, each with its three forks, irrigate the district. In their upper stretches, brook, bull and rainbow trout are plentiful, while lower down, grayling, pike and pickerel abound. The water is of an intense blue, clear and sparkling, and sufficient power could be developed from these rivers alone,

to "light and feed a world." In this connection we might mention the falls on the Middle Fork of the "Old Man's" quite near the village, as an ideal site for a large mill.

The day of large ranching is over, and mixed farming is driving the great herds north and east. The price of land has increased five-fold in as many years and is still rapidly advancing. In exceptional years 115 bushels of oats and 68 of wheat have been raised to the acre. Fall wheat is an unfailing crop, and such is the confidence of the farmers that this year upwards of 10,000 acres are under crop. One man alone, Mr. W. R. Dobbie, proprietor of the Arlington Hotel, has 1,160 acres planted and looking well. Another large wheat-grower is Mr. W. J. Chism with 700 acres, and many others with from 10 to 200 acres in wheat have shown their faith in the district. Undoubtedly the entire valley will soon be one great wheat field. In his geological report of 1896, Professor Dawson records the discovery of tracings of oil all along the foot-hills. Two large companies are now conducting extensive borings in the Kootenay Pass, 35 miles to the south. Oil has been struck in considerable quantities, and it is confidently expected that the present operations will vindicate the hopes of the promoters and that these wells will become the greatest oil-producers of Canada, the equal of any of the famous "gushers" in the same oil belt to the south.

Though it has never had a "boom," Pincher Creek's growth has been steady and healthy. In the past three years it has doubled its population, which is now 750. Its commercial history began with the arrival of Mr. J. H. Schofield, its pioneer merchant and first post-master, in 1883. Alert and enterprising, Mr. Schofield is a fine type of the Western business-man and his progress and success may be in a measure judged by the photo of his handsome new block. In 1884 Mr. H. E. Hyde came to the village and went into partnership with Mr. Schofield. In 1888 they sold out to the Hudson Bay Co. and for a year Mr. Hyde remained with the company as manager. Mr. Hyde's career has been in every way a success, and he is now widely known throughout the West as one of its wealthiest and most popular men. Besides being the postmaster (a post he has held for 20 years) he is the local manager of the Union Bank and also controls the retail lumber trade of the district. Mr. Chas. Kettles, Pincher Creek's wealthiest citizen and the oldest-timer of all, opened a butcher shop in the west end of the village in 1883, which he still owns. A year or so later he bought out Mr. Hinton's interest in the firm of "Lebel & Hinton." Since then the business has increased so materially that it now ranks with the largest in the territory and "T. Lebel & Co." General Merchants and Dealers in produce, are as well known abroad as at home. A fine new structure of stone is to be built this spring to meet the necessities

of their growth. The expansion of the business is mainly due to the efforts of its genial head and manager, Mr. T. Lebel, who founded it in 1884. His firm is the largest dealer and shipper of produce on the Crows Nest line and has secured also the bulk of the district's trade in farm implements.

On severing his connection with this firm, Mr. T. H. Hinton opened a hardware store in 1886, which he sold to Wm. Berry & Sons in 1898. The business which is now an extensive one is conducted by Mr. Geo. T. Berry alone. Since 1898 Mr. Hinton as builder and contractor has been literally an important factor in the "building up of the town."

Another prominent business-man is Mr. G. W. Gill, who arrived in 1888 to take the management of the Hudson's Bay Stores. By wise and careful stewardship, he built up the business and put it on a firm and prosperous basis. Leaving the service in 1900, Mr. Gill started business for himself as general merchant and commercial agent and has prospered. His place of business at the east end of the village, is a model of neatness and an ornament to the street.

Mr. James Scott, whose block of buildings is shown in this little book, came to town in 1885. Two years later he opened a carpenter shop to which he afterward added a smithy. He is the largest contractor in the district and does the bulk of its building and blacksmithing and sells it a goodly proportion of its farming machinery. His brother, Mr. Thos. Scott, also a successful contractor, joined him as partner last year and the firm have since doubled the size of their buildings and opened a handsome and roomy furniture store.

Another very prominent figure in the early history of "The Creek" is Mr. E. J. Mitchell, who came in 1887. In 1902 he became proprietor of the Arlington Hotel and two years later went into partnership with Mr. W. R. Dobbie with whom he still remains. Mr. Mitchell is also the druggist and stationer of the town having bought out his former employers, Mess. A. W. Blaesdell & Co., in 1896. Mr. Dobbie is also a man of many functions, being a breeder of horses, owner of a livery stable and the largest wheat-grower of the district. Next year Mitchell and Dobbie propose to improve and extend the hotel and make it thoroughly modern. "The Brick" is known far and wide as one of the most popular hostleries of the West.

Mr. John Henderson, for the past four years the genial proprietor of "The Alberta," has lately erected the magnificent new hotel of which a cut is shown among the illustrations. Spacious and well equipped, with every modern device for the comfort of its guests, "The King Edward" marks a new era of advancement in the life of the town. Space forbids further comment and the photo of this fine hotel renders it unnecessary.



The largest store-building of the town is that owned and occupied by The Hudson's Bay Co. This handsome structure was erected last year to keep pace with the expanding business that had outgrown its old quarters. It has a frontage of 60 feet and a depth of 90, with a stone-walled cellar of the same dimensions for the storage of goods. A warehouse behind the store and another at the station provide further storage facilities. The store has a plate glass front and its internal fittings in each and all departments are thoroughly modern and up-to-date, and the general effect excellent. Mr. L. H. Hunter, the able and very popular manager of the Company since 1900, has done much to bring this satisfactory change to pass. During the last year or so he has established a large trade in produce for the Company with the mining towns up the "Crow." Across the street the enterprising firm of Robbins Bros have shown practical proof of their faith in the town by erecting a huge livery stable and fitting up the upper story as an opera house and dancing hall. The village will have three large halls for concert and amusement purposes within a year.

Just beside the Robbins stables is the "41" Meat Market, also of recent erection. The proprietor, Mr. A. H. Lynch-Staunton, has lately established three branch butcher shops in towns to the west. Mr. Staunton is an ex-policeman and as early as 1886 took up land near Pincher Creek. He has now large holdings and herds three miles west of the village and of late years has come to the front as one of the leading ranchers of the country.

Fifteen months ago, Mr. J. H. MacEachern, for eight years an employee of the Hudson's Bay Co., and Mr. J. H. Schofield opened up as a general merchant in the store vacated by the Hudson's Bay Co. A good business man and of courteous and obliging manners, Mr. MacEachern's success has been exceptionally worthy of note. His business is a growing one and has already exceeded his most sanguine hopes. His residence north of the village is the handsomest house in the district.

The prettiest cottage in town is the new stone cottage owned and built by Mr. G. L. Dore and is itself an example of the fine work for which Mr. Dore is justly famous. Mr. Dore's contracts for stone work for the coming season aggregate already over \$75,000.

Pincher Creek had the honor last November of sending its popular townsman, Mr. John Herron to Ottawa as representative of Southern Alberta in the Dominion House. Mr. Herron was a very early settler and has been a most successful breeder of horses. There is no man in the West more widely respected nor more justly popular than he, as his majority at the polls attested.

A sketch of Pincher Creek would be incomplete without some mention of A. M. Morden, Jr., one of its most prominent figures. In the summer of 1880 he took up land on the present

site of the town and pursued his avocation as stock rancher until three years ago when he disposed of his large bunch of cattle at a handsome figure. He has still much real estate in the village and as land owner, clerk of the court and town magistrate, is closely identified with the life of the village. Fr  d Morden, who was killed in action during the Boer war, was his son, as fine a specimen of manhood as the loyal West sent to the front. His loss was so universally felt in the community that the village hospital was built to perpetuate his memory and that of his brother-in-arms, Robt. Kerr, who fell in the same action.

Mr. A. G. Kemmis, Pincher Creek's leading lawyer and the editor of its newspaper "The Echo," has practised his profession here since 1900 and has built up a large practice. He is also the agent of several land and loan companies of which this district is a favorite field.

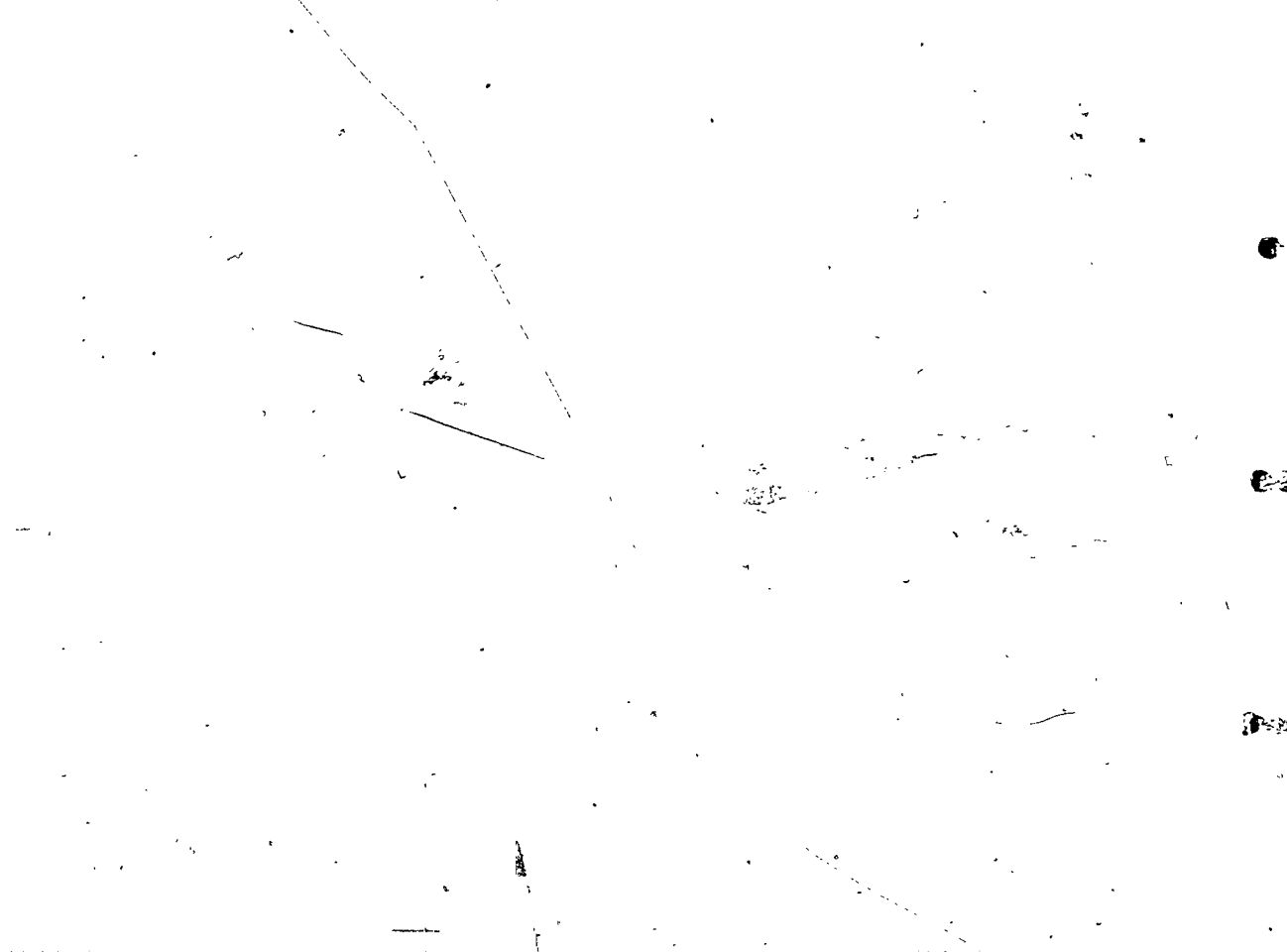
The health of the district is well looked after by two resident doctors, Dr. Hewetson and Dr. Townshend, and the excellent hospital has been a great boon to it.

It is impossible to mention more of the institutions of the town in this fragmentary sketch. Its fine school, its large convent, four churches and other public buildings are pictorially presented in this number and so speak for themselves:

This sketch of the village and district is necessarily a brief and imperfect one. Our advice to the home seeker into whose hands this little "Souvenir" may chance to fall is to pay us a visit and see for himself the advantages it hints of and all that it has overlooked.



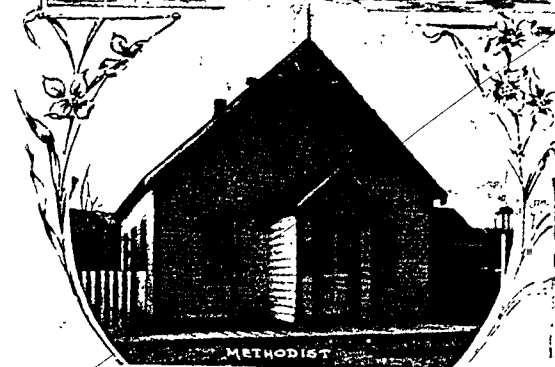
TOWN OF PINCHER CREEK. ALTA.





SCHOFIELD & Co.

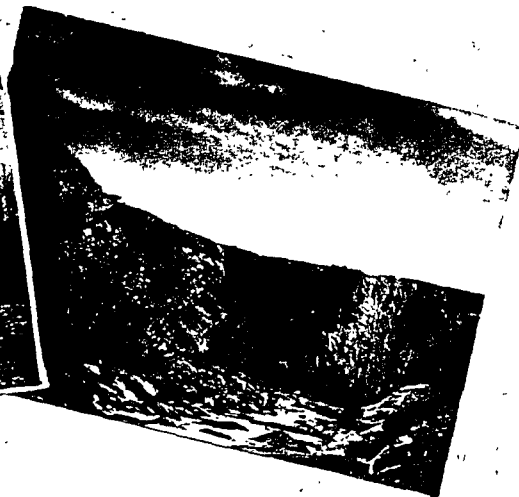




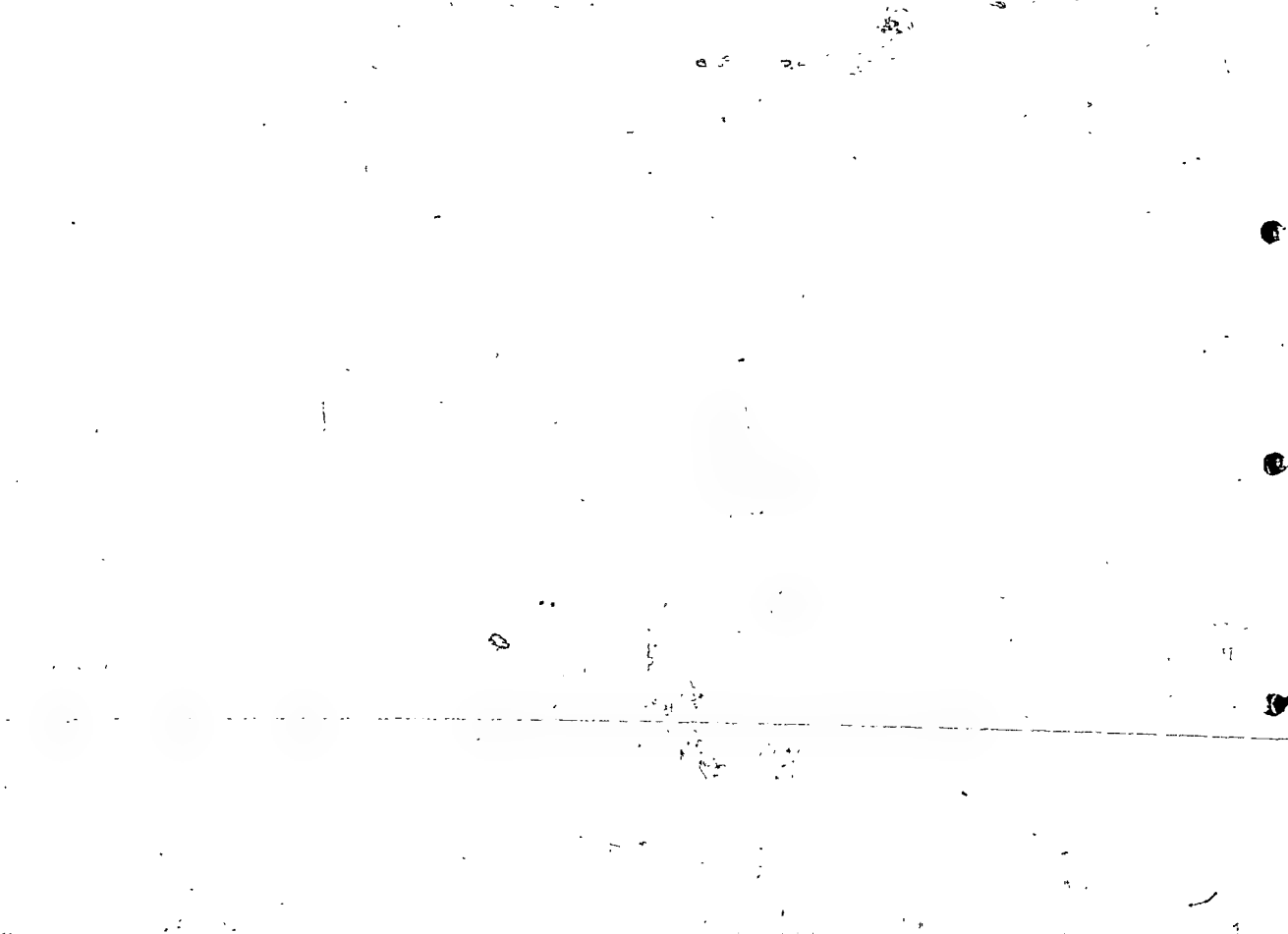
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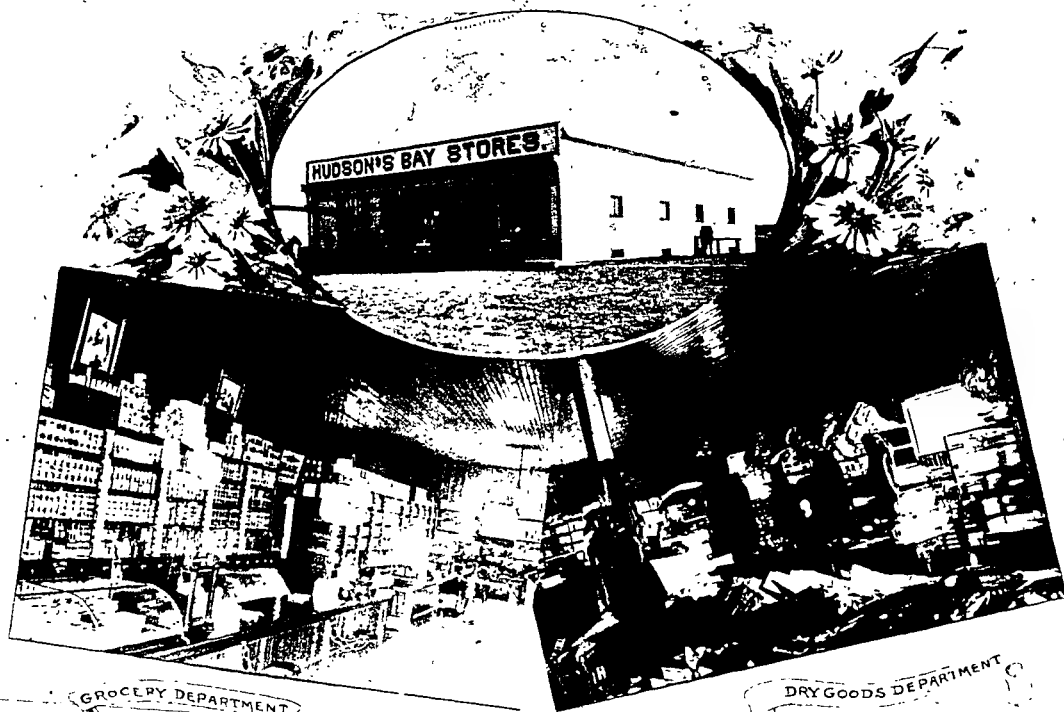




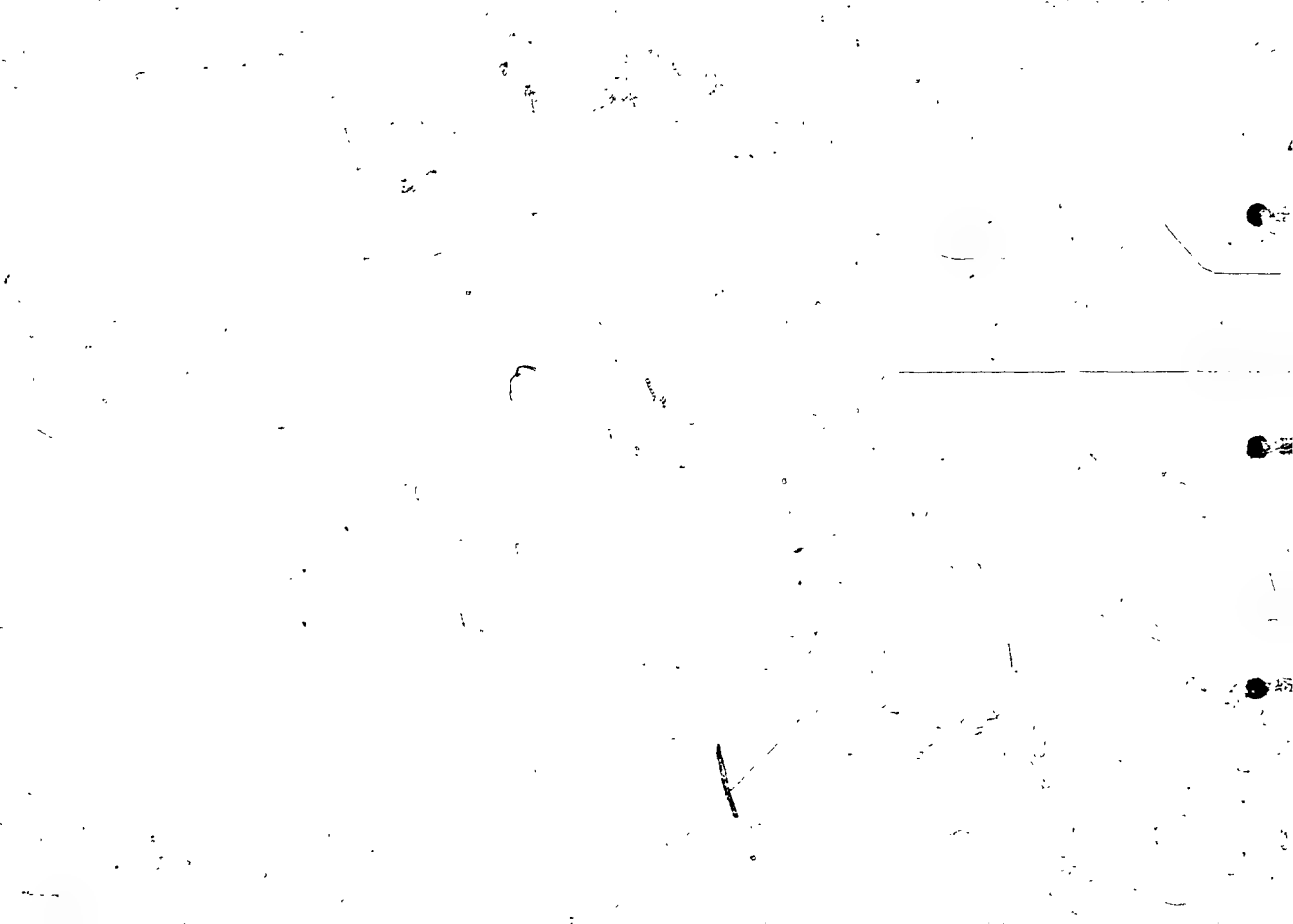


PINCHER CREEK LUMBER YARD. H. E. HYDE, PROP.





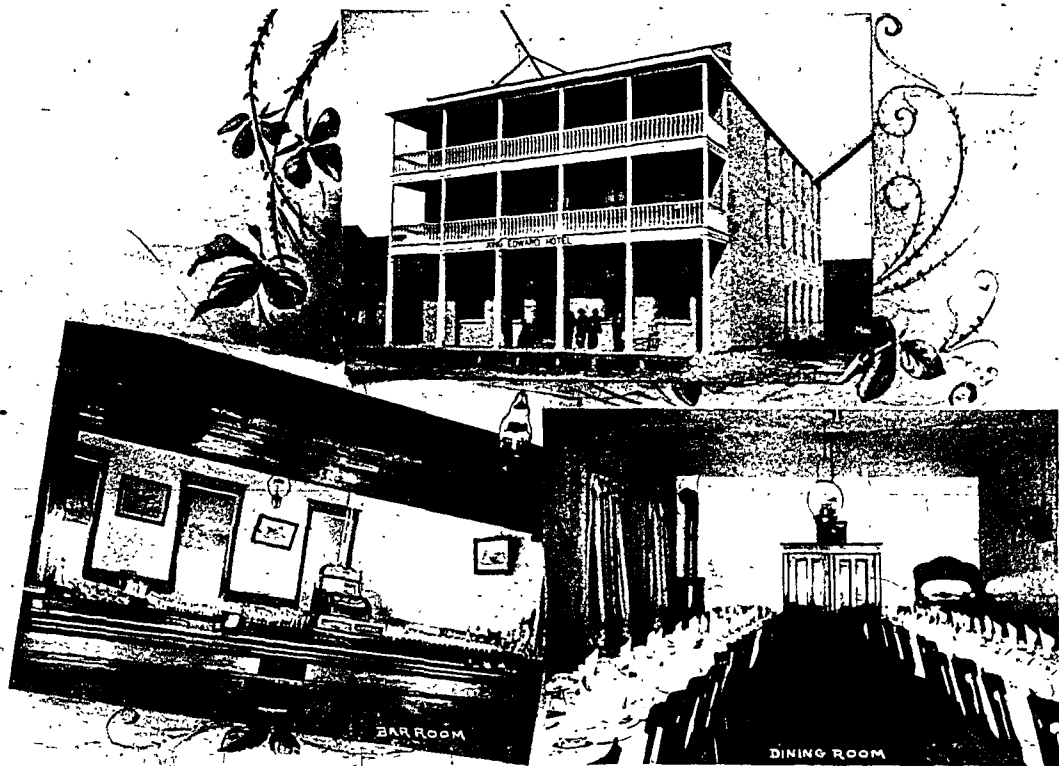
HUDSON'S BAY CO.



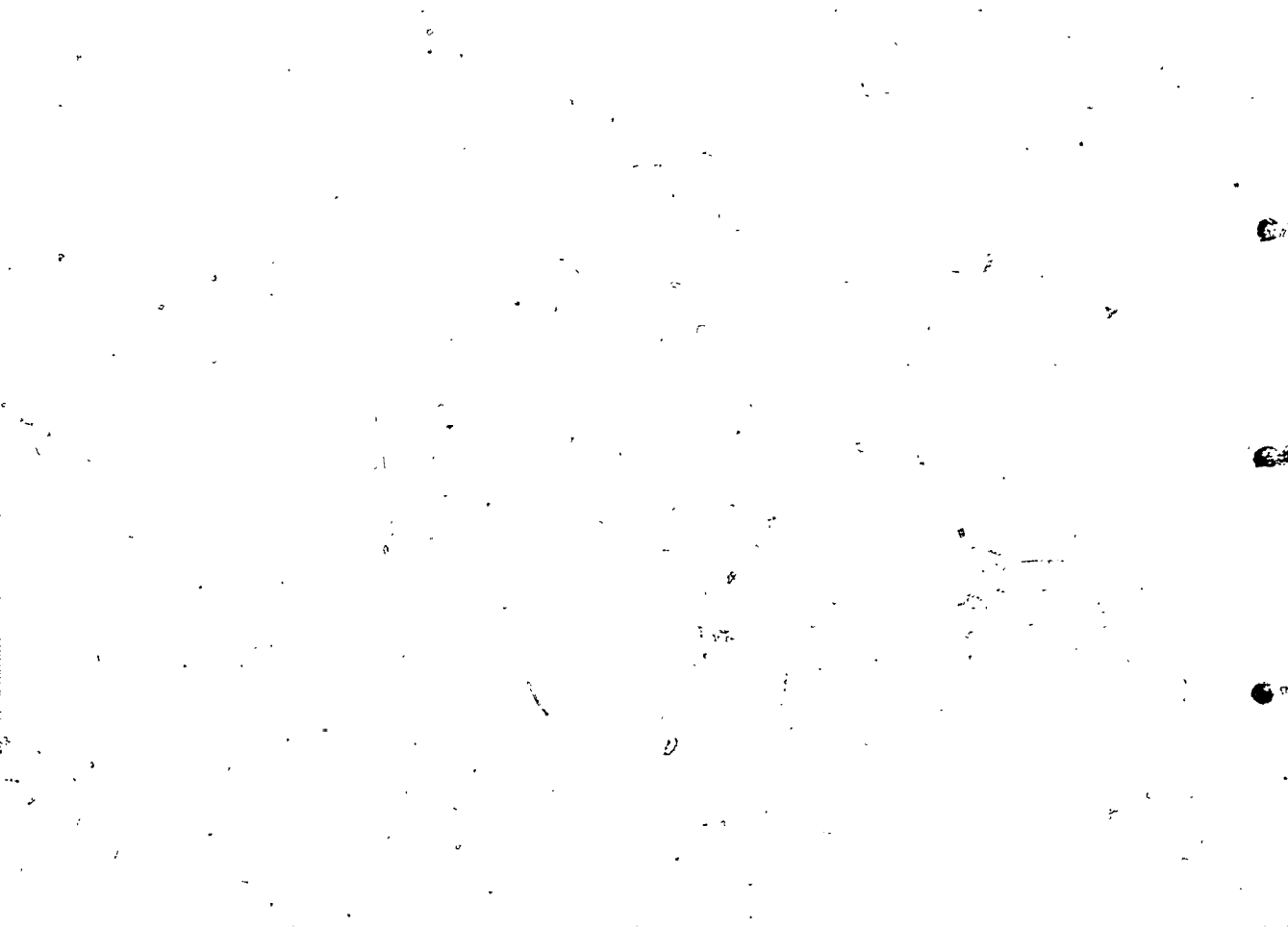


HOTEL ARLINGTON.

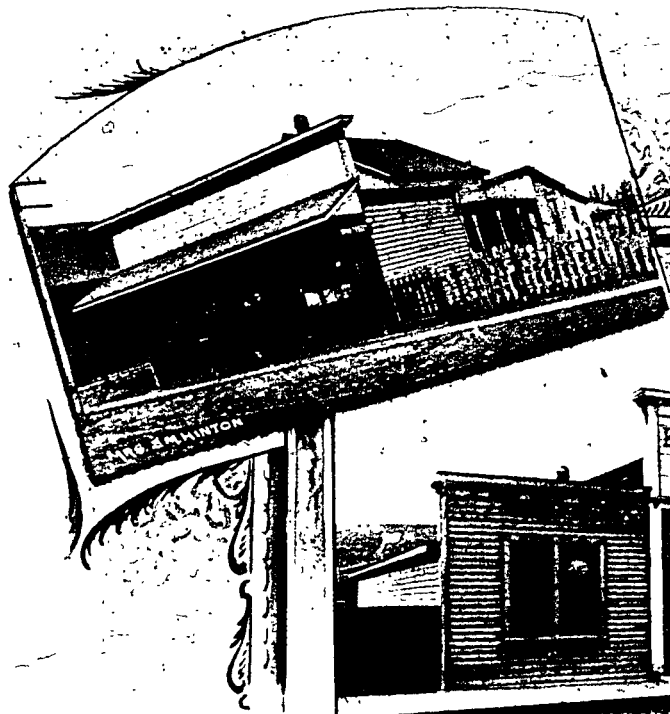




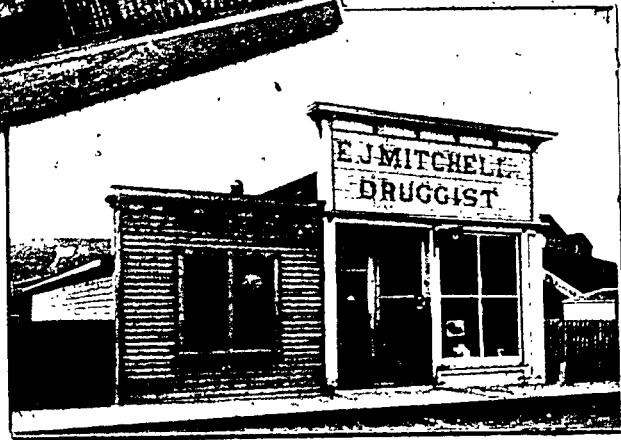
KING EDWARD HOTEL.







MRS. S. M. HINTON.



E. J. MITCHELL.





ROBERT  
CHRISTIE



GLDRE

RESIDENCES.





RESIDENCES.



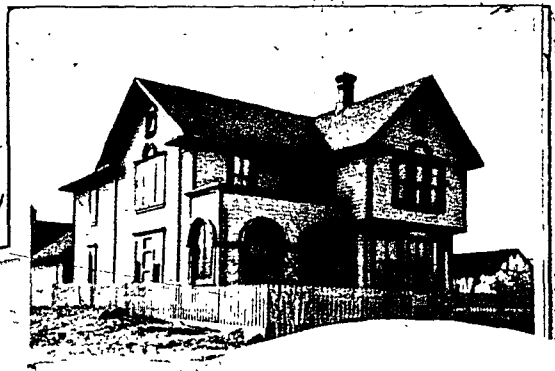


G. W. GILL.

SCOTT BROS.







MRS. BOGART



J. H. MAC KACHERN

RESIDENCES.





RESIDENCES.





L.H. MUSTER,  
MANAGER, HUDSON BAY CO.



WM. COOK.



G.H. DIONNE.

RESIDENCES.

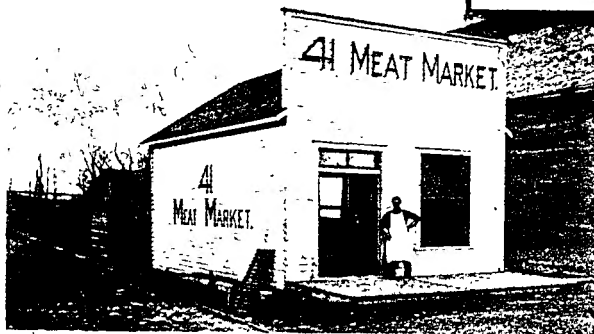




MEMORIAL HOSPITAL.







41 MEAT MARKET. A. H. LYNCH STAUNTON, PROP.



ROBBINS BROS'. LIVERY BARN.